

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this Application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested. Support for newly added claims 16-19 can be found in the original claims.

Claims 1-12, 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ziegler et al. (US 6,296,797) ("Ziegler"), in view of EP 1 118 458 ("Masubuchi '458") or Mutsada (US 6,517,949) ("Mutsada '949"), and in view of Masubuchi et al. (US 2001/0041772) ("Masubuchi '772"). The applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Ziegler discloses composite articles from polyacetal with directly molded-on functional elements made from one or more thermoplastic elastomers. As the Examiner correctly stated at the top of page 3 of the office action, Ziegler does not disclose the use of polyester elastomers.

Mutsada '949 and Mutsada '458 disclose a polyacetal composite which includes a polymer composed of a polyacetal resin and a polymer composed of thermoplastic resin or elastomer having an acidic group (see the abstract of both Mutsada '949 and Mutsada '458). Mutsada found –after intensive investigations- that heating of a polyacetal resin and a thermoplastic resin or elastomer having an acidic group (only!) permits an interface between the both materials to firmly bind and fix with each other (see col. 1, lines 44-50 of Mutsada '949 and paragraph no. [0005] of Mutsada '458). Therefore, a person of ordinary skill in the art will get the information from either Mutsada, that it is absolutely necessary that the elastomer (e.g. polyester-based thermoplastic elastomer [0018]) must have acidic groups to improve the adhering of polyacetal resin and an elastomer. Therefore, Mutsada a'949 and '458 ctually teach away from the present invention.

Masubuchi disclosed a thermoplastic elastomer composition comprising

1. 100 parts by weight of thermoplastic polyester elastomer,

2. 3 to 100 parts by weight of modified olefin resin having an epoxy group or a derivative group thereof in its molecule and

3. 10 to 900 parts by weight of a rubbery elastomer selected from the group consisting of an olefin-based thermoplastic elastomers and styrene-based thermoplastic elastomers (see the abstract of Masubuchi).

The Examiner has relied up Masubuchi for the teaching of polyetherester elastomers having a typical hardness of Shore D 32. However, the applicant does not believe that Masubuchi cures the deficiencies of the other references. The thermoplastic elastomer composition in Masubuchi can be used for various molding products having excellent scratch resistance, flexibility, heat resistance ... (see paragraph no. [0001] of Masubuchi).

It was an object of the present invention to provide novel composites which feature high bond strengths. Masubuchi is silent about this problem.

A person of ordinary skill in the art would not get any help from Masubuchi to provide the composition of the present invention, because Masubuchi does not deal with the same problem and discloses a combination which comprises at least three components.

Therefore, it would not have been obvious to apply a certain elastomer namely polyester elastomer on a polyacetal component as asserted by the Examiner.

Claims 6, 15 and 19

With respect to the applicant's claims 6, 15 and 19, none of the cited documents discloses the combination of polyacetal and polyetherester elastomer as is required by these claims.

In view of the above response, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant has paid for a two-month extension of time. Applicant believes no additional fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 05587-00409-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: February 11, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

Electronic signature: /Ashley I. Pezzner/
Ashley I. Pezzner
Registration No.: 35,646
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP
1007 North Orange Street
P. O. Box 2207
Wilmington, Delaware 19899-2207
(302) 658-9141
(302) 658-5614 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant